



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Dr. G. A. (Jim) Shirazi, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

September 9, 1983

Mr. Laurence Ashdown
U. S. Steel Corporation
P. O. Box 569
Lander, WY 82520

RE: Field Observations and
Recommendations
Desert Mound - Mtn. Lion Mine
ACT/021/003
Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Ashdown;

On August 3, 1983, Division members Tom Tetting, Wayne Hedberg, Tom Portle, and Steve Cox were given a tour of U. S. Steel Corporation's (USSC) Desert Mound-Mountain Lion Mine and the Iron Mountain property by Roy Benson. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize the staff with the overall site, but more specifically to observe the revegetation test plots and operations at the Blackhawk Fines Area.

The two waste rock revegetation plots have been in place since 1981 with very little success. It was noted during the visit that the test plots had been established in areas devoid of vegetation in order to avoid disturbing naturally revegetated areas. Several of these "bare" areas exist on the waste rock piles and may be due to compaction, infertility or toxicity of the crushed rock. In order to obtain more favorable results from the test plots the following suggestions are made:

1. A complete soils analysis of the "bare" area should be conducted. Parameters to be tested are included in the enclosed attachment. In addition, soils analysis of those areas which are being naturally revegetated should be conducted and compared to the bare areas. This may provide valuable insight into problems which may be encountered during reclamation and revegetation. Existing test plots could then be treated, using the information obtained, and replanted.
2. Test plots should be established in areas where natural revegetation is occurring. Plots should be cleared, ripped, scarified, and planted using the approved seed mix. It is our opinion that fall planting would be most successful for the species being used. This approach may provide a better test for evaluating future revegetation success.

Mr. Laurence Ashdown

ACT/021/003

September 9, 1983

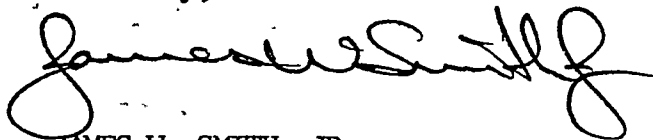
Page 2

Operations at the Blackhawk Fines Area have not been incorporated into the present Mining and Reclamation Plan. As requested by the Division in previous letters to USSC, certain information must be submitted. This information should include a detailed map showing all disturbances associated with the operations, a narrative describing the operations and plans to reclaim and revegetate the area when operations have ceased, accompanied by a time schedule for the completion of all activities. This information should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than October 28, 1983. Because of the magnitude of the disturbance, additional detailed reclamation cost estimates should also be submitted in order to revise the reclamation surety.

During our visit to the Blackhawk Fines Area, it was noted that a crusher had been removed from its foundations, disturbing the surrounding area. The disturbed area should be scarified and planted this fall with the seed mixture presented in USSC's April 8, 1981, letter to the Division.

If you have further questions, please feel free to call either Steve Cox, Tom Tetting or myself.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SMITH, JR
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

JWS/SC/jvb

Enclosure

cc: Roy Benson, U. S. Steel, Cedar City
Tom Tetting, DOGM
Steve Cox, DOGM
Tom Portle, DOGM
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM